



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SCOTT PETERS

First District

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San Diego “Head of the Class” in Annual Water Quality Survey

SAN DIEGO – Thanks to the efforts of San Diego’s Mayor and Council over the past seven years to repair and monitor its water and wastewater system, San Diego again earned mostly “A” and “A+” grades on the annual report card on water quality released by Heal the Bay, a Santa Monica-based environmental group.

Council President Peters recognized the amazing progress represented by this year’s report card. “Just a few years ago, San Diego was regularly receiving C’s, D’s and even failing grades on the annual water report card. Thanks to the investments we’ve made in our water and wastewater systems, San Diego is at the head of the class.”

Since 2001, San Diego tripled the rate of sewer pipe replacement, cleaned the entire sewer system, televises the inside of sewer pipes to pinpoint repair needs and established the “Canyon Watch” program to identify sewer spills in canyon areas before they reach public waters. These efforts resulted in an 80% decrease in sewer spills and beach closure days since 2001.

Highlights of the 2008 Heal the Bay report for San Diego include “A+” grades for La Jolla Shores, Windansea, Tourmaline, the Ocean Beach Pier and many points around Mission Bay.

Peters called out Pacific Beach Point for special recognition. Receiving mostly “F” grades since the year 2000, P.B. Point earned a “B” rating for the first time in the eight years Heal the Bay has included San Diego County in its survey.

“For years, we had trouble reducing pollution at P.B. Point because the natural shoreline tends to trap runoff there,” Peters said. “I’m pleased to see that our investments in water quality monitoring and sewer spill prevention paid off so that locals are able to enjoy this popular surf spot again. I look forward to many more years of good news from Heal the Bay.”

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